

## Williams Receives FERC Approval on Transco Project

After an extensive review, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has approved a proposal to expand certain segments of Transco's natural gas pipeline in Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

The proposal, known as Williams' 85 North Expansion Project, will provide the capacity to transport approximately 308 million cubic feet of additional natural gas per day to utility companies and power generators who serve the area (equivalent to the amount of gas it would take to provide service to approximately 1.3 million homes).

The project requires constructing three new pipe sections (loops), building one new compressor station and making modifications to various existing compressor stations.

The first phase of the project will get under way this fall and will include various modifications to existing compressor facilities. Construction on the new compressor station and pipeline looping will begin next summer and is anticipated to be wrapped up by the summer of 2011.

The three new pipeline segments, which total about 22 miles, will be constructed in Coosa County, Ala., (4.5 miles), Spartanburg/Cherokee Counties, S.C., (9.5 miles) and Iredell/Rowan counties, N.C., (8 miles). These new pipe sections will generally parallel the company's existing pipeline within the existing utility corridor.

The new 20,500 horsepower compressor facility will be constructed in Anderson County, S.C., within the boundaries of around 300 acres of property currently

owned by Williams. The proposed site will include less than 10 acres physically located in the center of the property.

This location was chosen to create the largest possible buffer between the facility and the property boundaries.

"This milestone is the culmination of a tremendous collaborative effort. We are very grateful for all of those who participated in this process. We also sincerely appreciate the cooperation we have received from property owners, permitting agencies and other interested parties whose assistance has helped bring us where we are today," said Kristen Weindel, project manager.

"As we enter the construction phase of this project, we are committed to working with affected communities and property owners to ensure these new facilities

are constructed in a prompt, safe and environmentally sensitive manner," added Weindel.

Prior to receiving federal approval, the FERC issued an Environmental Assessment (EA) in June 2009. The EA is a comprehensive assessment of the environmental affects of the pipeline project. The EA concluded that the construction and operation of the proposed facilities, with the adoption of recommended mitigation measures, would not significantly affect the environment.

If your property is affected by construction, you can expect to be contacted by a Transco land representative in the coming weeks to share more details about the construction process. Transco land representatives are available before, during and after construction to answer any questions you may have.



The 85 North project includes construction of a compressor station like this in Anderson, S.C.



# Pipeline Construction Involves Many Parts

In the typical pipeline construction scenario, the construction spread (crew) proceeds along the pipeline right of way in one continuous operation. The entire process is coordinated in such a manner as to minimize the total time a tract of land is exposed to erosional processes after disturbance.

## Surveying and Staking

A crew will survey and stake the outside limits of the proposed construction right of way and extra work space areas, the centerline of the pipeline and drainages, highway and railroad crossings and access roads. Existing utility lines (e.g., cables, conduits and pipelines) will be located and marked with flags, stakes or other devices to prevent accidental damage during pipeline construction. Affected landowners will be notified before the preconstruction survey and staking.

## Erosion and Sedimentation Control

Soil erosion and sediment control measures will be installed along the proposed construction right of way, extra work space areas, access roads and other work areas.

## Clearing and Grading

Large obstacles, such as trees, rocks, brush and logs, will be removed. Timber will be removed only when necessary for construction purposes. The right of way then will be graded where necessary to create a reasonably level working surface to allow safe passage of equipment.



## Trenching

The trench for installation of the pipe will be excavated with a rotary

trenching machine, a track-mounted backhoe, or similar equipment. In agricultural and residential areas, subsoil will be stockpiled separately from topsoil. The design trench will be excavated to a sufficient depth to allow a minimum of three feet of soil cover between the top of the pipe and the final land surface after backfilling. Areas containing shallow bedrock, however, may result in the pipeline having less than three feet of cover. Waterbody and road crossings will be installed with at least five feet of cover.



## Stringing

Steel pipe for the pipeline will be procured in nominal 40-foot lengths or joints, protected with a fusion-bonded epoxy coating applied at the factory (the beveled ends will be left uncoated for welding), and shipped to the contractor/pipe storage yards. The individual joints will be transported to the right of way by truck and placed along the excavated trench in a single, continuous line, easily accessible to the construction personnel on the working side of the trench, opposite the spoil side. This configuration will allow the subsequent lineup and welding operations to proceed efficiently.

## Pipe Bending

The pipe will be delivered to the project site in straight sections. However, bending of the pipe will be required to allow the pipeline to follow natural grade changes and direction changes of the right of way.

## X-Ray and Weld Repair

To ensure that the assembled pipe will meet or exceed the design strength requirements and to ensure weld quality and integrity, the welds

will be visually inspected and non-destructively tested using radiographic (x-ray) or another approved test method.

## Coating Field Welds, Inspection and Repair

Following welding, the previously uncoated ends of the pipe at the joints will be field coated with a company and industry approved anti-corrosion coating. Prior to lowering the pipe into the trench, the coating on the entire pipe section will be inspected and any damaged areas repaired.

## Pipe Lowering

The completed section of pipe will be lifted off the temporary supports and lowered into the trench by side-boom tractors or, in some cases, other equipment. Before lowering the pipe, the trench will be inspected to ensure that it is free of rock and other debris that could damage the pipe or the coating. In addition, the pipe and trench will be inspected to ensure that the pipe and trench configurations are compatible.

## Padding and Backfilling

After the pipe is lowered into the trench, the trench will be backfilled. Previously excavated materials will be pushed back into the trench using bladed equipment or backhoes. Where the previously excavated material contains large rocks or other materials that could damage the pipe or coating, clean fill will be placed around the pipe prior to backfilling.

## Hydrostatic Test and Final Tie-In

Following backfilling of the trench, the new pipeline will be hydrostatically tested to ensure it is capable of operating at the design pressure prior to being placed into service. The water in the pipe will be pressurized and held for a minimum of 8 hours.

## Cleanup and Restoration

Williams' construction procedures include video taping and photo-documenting the existing right of way before construction begins. These practices are used to ensure that post-construction restoration results in the



## PROJECT SCOPE

| State | County               | Scope   |
|-------|----------------------|---|
| AL    | Coosa                | Coosa Loop: approximately 4 miles of 42-inch pipe   |
| AL    | Marengo              | Existing compressor facility modifications          |
| AL    | Chilton              | Existing compressor facility modifications          |
| AL    | Randolph             | Existing compressor facility modifications          |
| GA    | Coweta               | Existing compressor facility modifications          |
| GA    | Walton               | Existing compressor facility modifications          |
| MS    | Jones/Jasper         | Existing compressor facility modifications          |
| SC    | Spartanburg/Cherokee | Cowpens Loop: approximately 9 miles of 42-inch pipe |
| SC    | Anderson             | 20,500 hp compressor station                        |
| NC    | Iredell/Rowan        | Iredell Loop: approximately 8 miles of 42-inch pipe |
| NC    | Davidson             | Existing compressor facility modifications          |
| NC    | Iredell              | Existing compressor facility modifications          |

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

| Phase I |        |                             | Phase II |        |                              |
|---------|--------|-----------------------------|----------|--------|------------------------------|
| 2008    | Spring | Conduct field surveys       | 2008     | Spring | Conduct field surveys        |
| 2008    | Spring | FERC pre-filing             | 2008     | Spring | FERC pre-filing              |
| 2008    | Summer | Public meetings             | 2008     | Summer | Public meetings              |
| 2008    | Fall   | Begin land negotiations     | 2008     | Fall   | Begin land negotiations      |
| 2008    | Winter | FERC filing                 | 2008     | Winter | FERC filing                  |
| 2009    | Fall   | Phase I construction begins | 2010     | Summer | Phase II construction begins |
| 2010    | Summer | Phase I in-service          | 2011     | Summer | Phase II in-service          |

## Pipeline Construction *(continued from page 2)*

return of temporarily disturbed areas to pre-construction conditions. After each segment of pipeline has been installed and backfilled, the areas disturbed by construction will be graded, and the construction debris will be disposed of properly. Land contours will be restored to conform to adjacent areas. In agricultural and residential areas, compacted subsoil will be disked, and the segregated topsoil will be returned as nearly as possible to its original horizon. Permanent erosion and sediment control measures will be installed at this time. Private and public property, such as fences, gates, driveways,

and roads disturbed by pipeline construction will be restored to their original or better condition. Driveways will be restored to pre-construction condition. These details will be discussed with each landowner who may be affected.



## New Compressor Facility Slated for Anderson County, S.C.

Williams operates 44 compressor facilities along its 1,800-mile Transco pipeline. Next summer, the company anticipates beginning construction of its newest facility in Anderson, S.C.

Compressor stations, sometimes called pumping stations, are the “engines” that power an interstate natural gas pipeline. As the name implies, the compressor station compresses the natural gas to push it through the pipeline.

Williams' proposed location for the Anderson compressor facility is within the boundaries of around 300 acres of property currently owned by Williams. The proposed site will include less than 10 acres physically located in the center of the property. This location was chosen to:

- > Create the largest possible buffer between the facility and the property boundaries.
- > Minimize the impact to the property – as this specific location is currently cleared, no trees will need to be removed.
- > Provide access to the main pipelines, Bolt Drive and utilities.

The location is between the existing Transco pipeline corridor and the existing Transco pipeline warehouse on the south side of Bolt Drive, between Inway Drive and Amity Road (SC 48).

The facility will include an access drive from Bolt Drive leading into the fenced-in area. The facility will be monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week by Transco's Gas Control department personnel with sophisticated remote monitoring and control systems. The facility will include control and safety features with redundant backups. The station will be operated in accordance with all applicable safety standards established by the U.S. Department of Transportation.





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### For more information

Project web site: [www.williams.com/85North](http://www.williams.com/85North)

Toll-free information line: 866-455-9103

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For more information on all other portions of this project, contact:

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## Acquiring Easements or Rights of Way

**1. Upfront Information.** In most cases, Williams' representatives begin the process by contacting each landowner to inform them of our plans to survey and stake the preliminary route for environmental, engineering and construction evaluations. The goal is for all landowners to understand all proposed features of the pipeline, including the alignment, underground depth, pipe size, temporary and permanent width of the easement, and aboveground equipment prior to construction. A Construction Stipulation Agreement may be used to specify special requirements, which are mutually agreed upon.

**2. Fair Compensation to Landowners.** Williams is committed to dealing fairly with each landowner and paying each landowner for two things:

> A fair value, based upon market value principles and number of acres needed, for the privilege of utilizing our existing easement or establishing a permanent easement across their land. Williams will utilize the permanent easement, but the landowner retains ownership and use of the land.

> Damages to crops, grazing lands, timber or any structures directly caused by the construction and maintenance of the pipeline. Construction damages will be paid on the area affected by the actual construction. The settlement for damages to crops either can be paid in advance, based on records of local yields or can be paid after construction, based on the actual crop losses.

**3. Prompt Payment to Landowners.** After the conditions and the

amount of compensation for any newly acquired rights and/or damages are reached, a check will be issued to the landowner.

### **4. Advance Notice of Construction Activities.**

Williams' representatives will advise the landowner and tenant (if applicable) regarding the actual timing of construction, as far in advance as possible. This allows the landowner or tenant to schedule farming or other activities in ways that minimize problems for both parties.

**5. Landowner Still Retains Ownership of Land.** The easement (for right of way) only gives Williams the right to construct, maintain and operate a pipeline. Use of the land, with certain limitations, can remain the same as before construction.